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EUROPEAN COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

OBJECT-ORIENTED DATABASES

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BRIEF HISTORY

Object-oriented databases, or OODBs, are likely to be the databases of the future. A flurry of activity over the next few years is expected - not least in the area of standardization and development of commercial object-oriented database products.

These databases are capable of handling any type of data that may be represented as objects. Such type of data include text, graphics (still and moving images), and audio data. Popularity of object-oriented database is assured by virtue of user-friendly features: as an example, a single retrieval command would send appropriate data to the relevant port, be this connected to a printer, a screen or a loudspeaker system.

This ECMA Technical Report provides general background information on object-oriented systems, object-oriented databases and object-oriented database management systems, and identifies the issues related to databases. It is intended as a tutorial for novices.

Work on this ECMA Technical Report started in ECMA TC22, Databases, in the middle of 1990 and was completed at the end of 1991.

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